

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 18-20, 23-30, 37, 38 and 41 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 41 has been amended to be in independent form and claims 31, 32, 34-36 and 40 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments. Support for amended claim 41 can be found in now canceled claim 35 as filed in the amendment of July 13, 2009. Thus, no new matter has been added.

Claims 18-20, 23-30, 37 and 38 have been allowed.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 35, 36, and 40 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Houlmont et al. Claims 35, 36 and 40 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection moot. In addition, claim 41 has been amended to be in independent form. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 41 are, therefore, respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 31-32 and 34 as being obvious over Houlmont et al. Claims 31-32 and 34 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Declaration of Dr. Houlmont submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132

The executed Declaration of Dr. Houlmont is submitted herewith. Entry into the record is respectfully requested.


In view of the above amendments and Remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled subject matter in one or more continuation applications.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, Reg. No. 40,069, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: SEP 14 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attachment: Executed Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 of Jean-Philippe Houlmont